

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, November 16, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the November 2nd meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Cindy Humphrey reported a successful tax collection with credit card payments of \$46,000 yet to be posted. The County received an advance draw of the tax collection in the amount of \$498,918.70. Humphrey gave a brief evaluation of the monthly activity. The on-line mobile home sale included two trailers. One sold for \$21 and the other for \$45 neither bid has been paid. The Treasurer said the success was that people understand that they must pay the taxes on their mobile homes or the property will be offered for sale.

EXTENSION

Extension agent, Kristi Amos was granted approval of the 2016 annual service agreement with Purdue University. The amount was budgeted for 2016. Mark Bacon moved to sign the agreement. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TIRE COLLECTION

Carole Yeend, Solid Waste Director stated that the tire collection held on Saturday was extremely successful. There were 178 donors and 6 semi-trailers full of tires which related to 160 tons of tires. Help was received from the County Highway Department, City Employees, Community Corrections and the Challenge Academy. Yeend commented that it was a nice community effort.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Director Sandy Fussner stated that a food drive will take place this week to benefit the Food Pantry. Santa will be coming to town with a parade on Main Street. Monday, November 23rd the Chamber will offer coffee, cookies and donuts for the Veterans of Rush County.

AUDITOR

Auditor Mary Ann Beard presented a contract with LOW Associates, Inc. to provide new financial software that will be utilized by the Auditor and Treasurer. The amount of the contract is just under \$140,000 to be funded over a two year period. The contract includes conversion of the current software, training and support. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the

Technical Service Agreement with Low Associates for new financial software. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Beard also submitted a Web Feature Service Agreement with Schneider Corporation, Web provider for the county's GIS. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the agreement of \$1,000 per year for the next three years. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANTI-NEPOTISM FORMS

The Commissioners were given the two anti-nepotism forms that are required of each elected official and supervisor to sign. All signed forms will be present to the Commissioners in December.

RUSHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

A letter requesting a donation was received from the Rushville Volunteer Fire Department. RVFD would like to purchase a new thermal imaging camera at a cost of \$8,695. It was noted that there were funds given to other departments for cameras several years ago and the RVFD did not request funds because they were already using a camera. The Commissioners will check with the EMA director to inquire what funds may be available.

APPOINTMENTS

Auditor Beard advertised the annual Commissioner appointments that will be selected on December 14th. Applications are due in the Auditor's Office by Monday, November 30th at 4:00p.m.

EMS RUNS

The following EMS monthly ambulance reports were filed; Rush Memorial Hospital, and Raleigh Volunteer Fire Department.

CLAIMS

The bi-weekly claims and allowance docket was presented to the Board. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the claims and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll claims for November 20th were submitted. Commissioner Levi noted that the Auditor has once again refused to sign off on the APC Director's claim. The Auditor stated that she feels the Director has exhausted her sick leave and should be on FMLA and that incorrect time sheets are being submitted. Attorney Leigh Morning has had conversations with the APC Attorney Grant Reeves but due to wage and hour laws the APC Director must be paid. The State Board of Accounts have been notified of the situation. Commissioner Bacon stated that he has received many complaints about the office but our hands are tied. Bacon moved to allow the payroll. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried with the Auditor's disapproval.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tom Gates thought that the thermal imaging cameras may be used to inspect roofs. David Todd was present to discuss a zoning matter. John Saxon suggested the county could have ladies make blinds or curtains for the assembly room.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jerry Sitton reported that Carthage Pike has been repaved but the surface it actually worse. Sitton has a 3:00p.m. Meeting today with INDOT to express his dissatisfaction. Mr. Sitton wants the entire road grounded and resurfaced.

The new highway truck that was struck by lightning has been repaired and is back in service.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported 45 inmates housed in the jail. There were no new burglaries reported this week. Suspects of burglaries in northern Rush County are being held in South Dakota. They are wanted in Hancock and Shelby, as well as Rush County. The new 911 consoles have been installed and they are being fine-tuned. QPH Plumbing reported that a second heat exchange has failed.

BICENTENIAL CELEBRATION

Attorney Leigh Morning presented a Bicentennial Proclamation to recognize the year-long celebration of the Statehood of Indiana beginning on December 11th. Paul Wilkinson read the document aloud then moved that the Commissioners sign the proclamation. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

YOUTH CAMP AMENDMENT

An amendment to the zoning ordinance to include a separation of a minimum of one mile from a CFO/CAFO and a youth camp received a favorable recommendation from the Area Plan Commission. A youth camp must be certified by the State Department of Health.

David Todd representing the House of Prayer ministries listed many reasons that a CAFO would be detrimental to the safety of the children's health. Commissioner Paul Wilkinson saw concerns to both parties. We must consider Ag freedom to the farmer yet protect the health of our youth. Mark Bacon also stated his concern about the limitation of agricultural growth. Commissioner Bacon moved to table action until the next meeting. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VACATED ALLEY

The meeting on the Commissioners request to vacate alleys for the jail construction project will be held at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:00p.m. Commissioner Levi shared that fiber runs in the North/South alley and sewer lines are buried in the East/West alley. Commissioner Bacon moved to refine the request to vacate and limit the

proposal to the East/West quarter block behind the current jail. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mark Bacon moved to adjourn and Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor